

AP Psychology Summer Work Portfolio

Dear AP Psychology Student:

Welcome to AP Psychology! I am glad that you have chosen to challenge yourself by taking this class, and I am convinced it may be one of the best classes you will ever take! Please read the following important information regarding your textbook and summer reading assignment.

Check out a blue AP Psychology textbook from the Media Center (*Myers' Psychology for the AP Course, Fourth Edition ISBN-13: 978-1-319-28116-8*).

The following is your summer homework assignment. It is due on the **FIRST** day of school.

1. **Read** Unit 0 (pages 0-2 – 0-48) of your textbook. I expect you to actually read it and actually take your own notes as you do so.
 - a. **Define** all terms on page 0-48 (by hand, in your AP Psychology notebook).
These will be due on the first day of class.
 - b. Be prepared for a **vocab quiz** on this material (above) on Day 1. (52 points)
2. Complete the **Summer Research Methods Portfolio** (78 points) on the following pages.
3. At the end of Week 1, there will be a **unit test** over all of this material.

Late summer work will not be accepted. Failure to complete the Summer Experiment Project may result in removal from the course. You must start early in order to run a successful experiment!

Please contact me via email (tphillippe@caschools.us) if you have any questions. Enjoy your summer! I look forward to growing together in August.

Grace and Peace,

Mr. Troy Phillippe
tphillippe@caschools.us
AP Psychology

The following page includes a basic overview of the portfolio assignments. You will conduct the research and present your findings on a Tri-Fold or posterboard. Paper copies of each assignment are available from Mr. Phillippe before the end of school, or from the high school office once summer begins.

Psychology is the study of mental processes and human behavior. But how can we know what's going on in someone's mental processes? And, how do we monitor human behaviors? To answer these questions, you will complete a summer research portfolio. Instead of just reading about them in your textbook, you will *actually do them* yourself. Hands-on is the best way to master the pros and cons of these research methods. You will conduct 4 different research methods, outlined below:

1- Naturalistic Observation

A Naturalistic Observation requires you to go to a public place, select a specific behavior you'd like to observe, and keep track of it happening "in its natural habitat." You can't interfere with whatever you're watching! Click the link above for specific instructions.

2- Case Study

A Case Study is a study that focuses on a specific person or a unique group of people (who all have the same unique trait, like being left-handed). You interview them and then do some simple research to see if their unique trait makes them stand out in a particular way. Click the link above for specific instructions.

3- Correlational Study

Did you know that Mother's Day has the lowest crime rate of any day of the year? Why do you think that is— is it because criminals are spending time with family instead of committing crimes, or, is it because moms are actually the worst criminals but they're stuck eating brunch and can do no harm? A Correlational Study is a type of research that notices a relationship between two things (like mothers day and crime rates) and tries to study the relationship further. It does **not** prove a cause-and-effect relationship (otherwise we could just declare EVERY day to be mother's day and crime would disappear, right?). **This portion of the portfolio is a mandatory group assignment** where you will all work together to establish a relationship between the number of tastebuds on your tongues and how strong salt & sugar taste to each of you. Click the link above for specific instructions.

4- Experiment

The golden goose of psychological science is the experiment. In an experiment, researchers take a group of participants and divide them into two groups. One group performs a task just like they normally would- these participants are called the *control group*. They're like the baseline- once we know how people behave *normally* we can compare other groups to them later. Then, researchers change a variable for the second group (called the experimental group) and compare the results of the experimental group to the control group. If we give group 1 a pill containing water and have them take a memory test, and we give group 2 a caffeine pill and the same test, we can prove once and for all that caffeine has a direct cause-and-effect on the ability to learn. Your summer experiment is much easier than that. Click the link above for specific instructions.